

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-16 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. Support for the amendment is found in the specification, for example, on page 4 line 27, through page 5, line 2.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 12, 13, 15 and 16 are not anticipated by Fujihara et al. (US 5,065,011, "Fujihara") under 35 USC 102(b).

Fujihara fails to disclose or suggest visually aligning the upper plate and the lower plate using overlapping images of the fibre and the at least one high speed optical component, as recited by claims 1 and 16.

Fujihara discloses a chip mounted within an assembly including a conical insert and a corresponding tapered recess. This assembly may be assembled without positional adjustments because the conical insert is self locating within the recess.

There is no disclosures in Fujihara related to visual alignment. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 16 and dependent claims 2, 4, 7, 12, 13, and 15 are not anticipated by Fujihara.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4, 5, 7-11, 13, 15 and 16 are not anticipated by Nesnidal et al. (US 6,364,541, "Nesnidal") under 35 USC 102(a).

Nesnidal like Fujihara fails to disclose or suggest visually aligning the upper and lower plates using overlapping images of the fibre and the at least one high speed optical component, as recited by claims 1 and 16.

Nesnidal has no disclosure related to visual alignment. At least for these reasons, Applicants submit that Nesnidal fails to anticipate independent claims 1 and 16, and dependent claims 4, 5, 7-11, 13, and 15.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 14 are patentable over Nesnidal under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 3 and 14 depend from claim 1.

As mentioned above, Nesnidal fails to disclose or suggest visually aligning the upper plate and the lower plate using overlapping images of the file and then at least one high speed optical component, as recited by claim 1.

5. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is patentable over the combination of Nesnidal et al. in view of Kawase et al. (US 6,310,707, "Kawase") under 35 USC 103(a).


Claim 6 depends from Claim 1. Kawase fails to disclose or suggest the features missing from Nesnidal, is that visually aligning the upper and lower plates using overlapping images of the fibre and the at least one high speed optical component, as recited by claims 1 and 16.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$120.00 is enclosed for a one (1) month extension of time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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17 October 2005
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450.

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